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THE CABBAGE MAGGOT

The cabbage maggot (Hylemyia brassicae) is the immature form of a fly which resembles a housefly in appearance, but is much smaller and more slender. It attacks cabbage, radishes, turnips, rutabagas and other closely related plants. Eggs are laid by the fly around the base of stems and hatch into the small maggots which attack the plants.

For control of this pest the use of a solution of corrosive sublimate is recommended; to prepare this solution dissolve 1/4 ounce of the substance in 1 pint of hot water in a glass or earthenware vessel. Dilute to 5 gallons. This will be enough to treat 200 to 300 cabbage plants. Pour half a teacupful of the solution around the soil at the base of each plant soon after setting out the cabbage and repeat about 10 days later.

The corrosive sublimate treatment recommended is a satisfactory remedy if used early enough to prevent the maggots from reaching the roots of the plant. Once the maggot has entered the plant root the pest cannot be controlled by any practical means. The corrosive sublimate solution applied to the soil about the plants serves to kill the eggs of the maggot and also the young maggots before they have had an opportunity to enter the plant. Corrosive sublimate treatments can best be made to plants planted in rows, therefore, in sections where this insect is prevalent, the susceptible crop should be planted so that it can be easily treated. The first treatment should be made shortly after the plants come up, and later treatments follow at about ten-day intervals until five or six treatments have been made. The number of treatments will depend upon the type of crop and abundance of the pest.

Where the cabbage maggot attacks radishes and turnips they may be protected by applying the solution directly to the rows by means of a watering pot or similar vessel, using about 1 gallon to 35 feet of row. One application should be sufficient to protect radishes.

As the solution is poisonous and corrosive to metal, all utensils and containers used should be carefully washed. Enamel or glass containers are to be preferred.

TRUCK CROP AND GARDEN  
INSECT INVESTIGATIONS

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